



**Data.census.gov:
Census Bureau's New Data Dissemination Platform**

Frequently Asked Questions and Release Notes

October 11, 2018

Document History

Date	Description
3/16/2017	Initial Release 3.0
5/9/2017	Minor text revisions
8/10/2017	Release 4.0 updates
9/14/2017	Updates for 2015 & 2016 ACS 1-year Detailed Tables, Data Profiles, Comparison Profiles, and Subject Tables
10/19/2017	Updates for 2015 & 2016 ACS 1-year Supplemental Estimates
11/20/2017	Feature updates
2/28/2018	Feature updates
4/26/2018	Feature updates
6/28/2018	Release Update
8/16/2018	Feature Update
10/11/2018	Feature and Dataset Update

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1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to summarize the frequently asked questions and functionality included in the latest release of the Census Bureau’s developing data dissemination platform at <https://data.census.gov>. We will be releasing platform features in phases so users can review them and send us feedback. The data presented here are test data and should not be used for purposes beyond evaluating the functionality of the platform. For official Census Bureau data, please continue to use our data resources at <https://www.census.gov/data.html>.

2.0 Frequently Asked Questions

2.1 What is data.census.gov?

The Census Bureau is changing the paradigm of how we disseminate data. Data.census.gov is a preview environment for the Census Bureau to prototype data dissemination capabilities and receive customer feedback on improvements. We developed this environment as part of our commitment to streamlining the customer experience of finding, analyzing, and using Census Bureau data.

2.2 Why did the Census Bureau develop data.census.gov?

We are moving away from delivering data through many individual tools (e.g., American FactFinder, OnTheMap, My Congressional District) to a model where those tools’ capabilities are integrated and served on a single platform, eventually accessible by a single search bar on Census.gov. Our vision for data dissemination is to improve the customer experience so users spend less time searching for data products and more time using them.

2.3 When will data.census.gov be fully operational?

The Census Bureau plans to continue releasing periodic Beta versions until June 2019. Please also keep in mind we are employing an Agile development process that relies on incremental progress and user feedback, rather than traditional long-term “waterfall” best-guess planning. In the meantime, all current Census Bureau tools will remain fully operational on <https://www.census.gov/data.html>.

2.4 Is there an Advanced Search feature?

Yes. If you click in the search bar, an “Advanced Search” button will appear below. Advanced search allows users to include or exclude specific words or phrases, and filters allow users to search by topics, geographies, years, surveys, or industries.

2.5 Can I search by Table ID?

Yes. For example, you can search for table “B01001” to view the “Sex by Age” tables. Start typing a Table ID and then select the options that appear below the search bar.

2.6 How do I modify tables, download data, and print data?

Currently users can transpose columns and rows in data tables. Also, you can download data tables in .TXT and .CSV formats and download multiple tables at one time. We are working to offer more formats and downloading capabilities. Direct printing is not yet available but is a feature we are considering for future releases.

2.7 What data are available in data.census.gov?

Current Data in data.census.gov	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
ACS 1-Year Detailed Tables	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACS 1-Year Data Profiles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACS 1-Year Comparison Profiles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACS 1-Year Subject Tables	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACS Selected Population Profiles							✓	✓
ACS 5-Year Detailed Tables	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
ACS 5-Year Data Profiles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
ACS 5-Year Comparison Profiles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
ACS 5-Year Subject Tables	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
ACS Supplemental Estimates					✓	✓	✓	
Decennial Summary File 1 (SF1)Tables	✓							
Economic Census US Basic Data			✓					
County Business Patterns			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Non-Employer Statistics			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Survey of Business Owners Company Summary			✓					
Survey of Business Owners Characteristics of Business Owners			✓					

3.0 Known Limitations and Defects

The data presented in this release are test data and have limitations. This release should not be used for purposes beyond evaluating the functionality of the platform. The highlighted features are new for this release.

Table 1 - Known Limitations

Limitation	Description
Data	This release does not include all Census Bureau datasets and geographies. See “Data sets” in Table 1 above for a listing of data offered in data.census.gov. We will be providing support for additional data with future releases. Note: SF1 does not contain all previous released geographies.
Browser	This current release works best in Internet Explorer versions 11 and 10.
Iterated Products	Iterated tables for race, Hispanic origin, ancestry and country of birth are not searchable. Access to these tables is only available through the Advanced Search.
Pseudo Geographies	Users may notice inconsistency in the behavior of the pseudo geography check boxes within the filters
Geography Names	The geography names may appear differently than in the previous releases. We are working to address this item.
Filters	The topics and other options available within the filters continue to be updated during the releases. Users may notice some inconsistencies as we complete these updates.

Table 2 – Significant Known Defects

Defect	Description
Featured Result	Population does not return as the default when searching for a geographic entity.
Geography	Conflicting geography results for areas that are both a place and a county (e.g., Fairfax County, VA.)
Faceted Filtering	Inability to filter “Legal Form of Organization” and “Employment Size of Establishment.”
Faceted Filtering	Larger filtered lists may cut off.
Tables	Last rows on larger tables are obstructed.
Featured Result	Geography name is missing in the featured results label for the nation.

4.0 Features

The following functionality is available on data.census.gov. The highlighted features are new for this release.

Table 2 - Features

Feature	Description
Large Table Download	Option to download the data as a CSV when the data are too large to display.
Iterated Products	Iterated tables available for race, Hispanic origin, ancestry and country of birth.
NAICS Collections	Ability to select NAICS codes within a larger set of NAICS codes.
Pre-Filtered Tables	Enhanced option to view all columns in our larger tables (e.g., CBP), not just the default columns.
Summary Level	Blocks are available for 2010 Decennial SF1 data.
Download	Ability to download a large number of tables at the same time.
Pre-filtered Tables	Pre-filtered experience allows users to view similar statistics (e.g., AC1231, AC122A1).
Advanced Search	Refined the search logic to be consistent across the application and added more functionality to create re-usable custom searches.
Map Results Page	Refreshes the map results page to provide a better user experience and improved performance
Landing Page	A simplified landing page includes a single-search bar.
Search	Improved relevancy rules by using AFF table logic and type ahead suggestions. A search bar persists across all pages and provides the ability to search for Census Bureau data using free form text with spelling corrections, "did you mean?" suggestions, and relevancy rules.
Geography Profile	Provides a profile that includes statistics and visualizations for a state, county, place or the nation. Enhanced the page to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Related Searches• Ability to share/export visualizations• Ability to embed visualizations in html
Geography Collections	Expands the search, table, and mapping support for geography collections.
Table Search Results	Refreshes the table search results page to provide a better user experience with less scrolling.
Download Multiple Tables	Ability to select and download multiple table files at one time.
"All" view of Search Results Content	"All" view of search results content that shows the top tables, maps, and web pages for a search in one view.
Architecture Enhancements	Includes research activities to identify mapping and table solutions to enable future features. Further researched mapping solutions to improve performance, which will be introduced in upcoming releases.

Feature	Description
Geographies	<p>Search for Census Bureau data for the following geography summary levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 010 - United States• 020 - Region• 030 - Division• 060 - State-County-County Subdivision• 140 - State-County-Census Tract• 150 - State-County-Census Tract-Block Groups• 160 - State-Place• E60 - Economic Places• E65 - Place/County Part• 230 - State-Alaska Native Regional Corporation• 250 - American Indian Area/Alaska Native Area/Hawaiian Home Land (AIA/ANA/HHL)• 310 - Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)/Micropolitan Statistical Area• 330 - Combined Statistical Area (CSA)• 350 - New England City and Town Area (NECTA)• 400 - Urban Area• 500 - State-Congressional District• 950 - State-School District(Elementary)/Remainder• 960 - State-School District(Secondary)/Remainder• 970 - State-School District(Unified)/Remainder
Thematic Map	<p>Ability to generate thematic map from a table:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current functionality provides a mapping option within the table view and table list to map desired variables across geographic summary levels• This includes the ability to manipulate the map by classification type, number of classes, and color palette• Hover feature on the legend with additional details• Ability to manually define classification breaks• Added “Update Map Results” button when adding features to map• Zoom to extent capability• Ability to clear all selected geographies• The following geographic summary levels are supported for the Thematic Map capability<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ State○ Place○ County○ Economic Place (2012 Only)○ Census Tract

Feature	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Metro/Micro Statistical Area○ Census Block Groups• The following datasets are supported<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ACS Detailed Tables○ ACS Profile○ Decennial datasets○ Additional datasets will be added in the future
Map as a Selection	<p>Ability to select geographies from a map to search for Census Bureau data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following geography summary levels are currently supported<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ State○ Place○ County○ Economic Place (2012 Only)○ Census Tract○ Metro/Micro Statistical Area○ Census Block Groups○ Region○ Division○ 5 Digit Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA)○ County Subdivision○ Blocks○ American Indian Areas / Alaska Native Areas / Hawaiian Home Lands (AIA/ANA/HHL)○ Alaska Native Regional Corp○ Congressional Districts○ State Legislative District (upper)○ State Legislative District (lower)○ School District (elementary) remainder○ School District (secondary) remainder○ School District (unified) remainder○ Combined Statistical Area (CSA)○ Combined New England City and Town Area (CNECTA)○ New England City and Town Area (NECTA)○ Metro Division with Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)○ NECTA Division○ Block Groups• The map provides four different options to make selections<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Click and select○ Draw a circle to select geographies within a desired region○ Draw a rectangle to select geographies within a desired region

Feature	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Draw a free form polygon to select geographies within a desired region• Ability to search states, counties, and cities on the map using a text input• Ability to view selected filter while viewing the selection map
Base Map Customization	Ability for data users to turn off features on the map allowing only the layers of the map needed.
Search Page	Ability to search for Census Bureau data on the Data and Map pages using the following filters: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic• Geography• Industry• Year• Dataset• Survey/Program Filters are also available on the results page to help further refine search results
Table Preview	The ability to preview a table: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The table preview will now appear in the right pane when the user clicks on the search result• The table preview can be expanded by clicking on the view full table icon• The table preview can be expanded by clicking on the expand icon• The table preview dataset can be changed from a drop down located in the table preview• Thematic map can be opened from table preview
Data Results	Improved the search results to include a new filter pane that is shown alongside search results and provides the ability to refine a search. Provides the ability for users to sort table results by relevancy, table name, or table ID.
Consistent Filter Results	Filter results are consistent across all filters allowing a better user experience.
Unified Search - Single Search Input	Automatic scrolling search suggestions. Searches across <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topics• Geographies• North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes• Table names• Table IDs

Feature	Description
	Entity extraction: Can search multiple filters at once (e.g., 'population Maryland Virginia') sets filters for 'population total,' 'Maryland,' and 'Virginia.' Can use unified search bar on the results page to run a new search.
Table Display	Updated the table display: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes a share button• Ability to transpose, add geographies, and add additional filters• Ability to view the selected filters when viewing a table• Ability to access and add additional filters when viewing a table• Ability to add geographies when viewing a table• Redesigned table headers
Table Filter	New filter capabilities while in table view that are consistent with Advanced Search. Adding Geography and Industry filter selections.
Share	Provides the ability to share by copying the URL that links to the table view. This is available on the table display view.
Pseudo Geographies	Provides the ability to select a pseudo geography within the filters or through the search bar. Supported geographies include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All States within the United States• All Counties within all States• All Places within the United States• All Congressional Districts for the 106th and 109th through 115th Congresses in the United States and by State• All American Indian Areas / Alaska Native Areas / Hawaiian Home Lands (AIA/ANA/HHL) within the United States and by State• All ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) in the United States and by State
User Feedback	Provides a direct link to the Census FAQ from the users feedback button allowing users access to census.gov to ask questions and to get more information. Data users can also comment through cedsci.feedback@census.gov